GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2099
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2006
NATHPA JHAKRI HYDEL POWER PROJECT
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times power generation in the Nathpa Jhakri hydel power project was halted during June and July, 2006;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered by the stake holders exchequer as a result thereof;

(d) whether the silt limit in the reservoir has crossed the permissible limit;

(e) if so, the permissible limit of silt;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the silt so as the power generation would not be affected;

(g) whether the project has been operational; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) & (b) : As per information available, the power generation from Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Project was halted twice during June, 2006 and 9 times during July, 2006 as detailed below:

(i) June, 2006 - 2 times for routine reservoir flushing.

(ii) July, 2006 - 2 times for routine reservoir flushing and 7 times due to high silt contents in river Satluj.

The plant was shut down for 311 hours during June and July, 2006 which includes 34 hours outage due to silt flushing and 277 hours outage on account of high silt content in river water.

(c) : There is no loss to the stake holders on account of reservoir flushing as it is a technical requirement for sediment management and is accounted for which arriving at the design energy.

The total loss suffered by the stake holder exchequer as a result of plant closure on account of high silt content in river water during June and July, 2006 comes to Rs. 61.58 crores for the outage of 277 hours (equivalent to 11.57 days).

(d) : Yes, Sir.

(e) : For the safety of the plant and to avoid erosion of under water parts of turbine, the plant is shut down whenever the silt

concentration in river water exceeds the permissible limit of 4000 parts per million (PPM).

(f) : The following steps have been taken to deal with the heavy silt content in river Satluj:-

(i) Units are closed when the silt level exceed specified/permissible limits as prescribed in the operation manual of the power station;

(ii) The underwater parts have been coated with Tungsten Carbide Coating by High Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF) improve abrasion resistance to silt;

(iii) Strict implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plan amounting to Rs.29.75 crores through Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department;

(iv) The treatment of identified Nallahs contributing high content of silt with quartz in the river water upstream of dam axis;

(v) Prevention of dumping of muck in the Satluj river; and

(vi) Weekly flushing of reservoir at Nathpa Dam to reduce the silt load.

(g) & (h) : Yes, Sir. In June and July the plant has generated about 1,598 MU worth about Rs. 375 crores. However, since 24.7.2006 owing to the high silt content in the river Satluj, the plant has not been in-operation since 24.7.2006 and would start generation once the silt level reaches the permissible limits.